

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

An environmental assessment (EA) must be prepared when a federal government agency considers approving an action within its jurisdiction that may impact the human environment. An EA aids federal officials in making decisions by presenting information on the physical, biological, and social environment of a proposed project and its alternatives. The first step in preparing an EA is to determine the scope of the project, the range of action alternatives, and the impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the proposed action and alternatives that the EA should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis in the EA and to eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analysis.

The Brown Cow CBM project EA was prepared by a third party contractor working under the direction of and in cooperation with the lead agency for the project, which is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming.

5.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A scoping notice was prepared and submitted to the public by the BLM on June 14, 2001, requesting input into the proposed Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane Project. Scoping documents were sent out to the public listed on the BLM mailing list, as well as organizations, groups, and individuals requesting a copy of the scoping document.

As a part of the scoping process, the interim drilling programs proposed by Merit and other operators was included in the scoping notice. The scoping period ended on July 25, 2001.

During preparation of the EA, the BLM and the consultant interdisciplinary team (IDT) have communicated with, and received or solicited input from various federal, State, county, and local agencies, elected representatives, environmental and citizens groups, industries, and individuals potentially concerned with issues regarding the proposed drilling action. The contacts made are summarized in the following sections.

The following organizations/individuals either provided comment or were provided the opportunity to comment during the scoping period.

FEDERAL OFFICES

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
U.S. Senator Craig Thomas
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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STATE AGENCIES

Governor Jim Geringer
State Engineer's Office
State Senators
Wyoming Department of Environmental
Quality

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
State Representatives
Wyoming State Planning Coordinator
Wyoming Department of Transportation
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation
Commission

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Carbon County Commissioners

Carbon County Planning Commission

MUNICIPALITIES

Mayor-Baggs
Mayor-Rawlins

Mayor-Wamsutter

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Northern Arapahoe Tribal Council
Ute Mountain Tribe
Shoshone-Arapahoe Joint
Tribal Council

Shoshone Tribal Council
Ute Tribal Council
Uinta-Ouray Tribal Council

GRAZING PERMITTEES

Weber Ranch
Salisbury Livestock Company
Three Forks Ranch Corporation
Mike Sheehan
H.B. Lee
Espy Livestock
PH Livestock Company

Montgomery Livestock Company
Stratton Sheep Company
Sam Morgan
Robert Orchard
Matt Weber
Jack Creek Land and Cattle Company

LEASE AND ROW HOLDERS

Stone & Wolf, LLC
Merit Energy Company
Benson–Montin-Greer

North Finn, LLC
P&M Petroleum Management
KCS Mountain Resources, Inc.

LANDOWNERS

This scoping notice has been sent to 111 landowners potentially affected by the proposal.

LOCAL MEDIA

Casper Star-Tribune
Rock Springs Rocket Miner
Wyoming State Tribune/Eagle
KRAI - Craig, Colorado
KRKK - Rock Springs
KTWO - Casper
KUWR - University of Wyoming

Rawlins Daily Times
Wyoming State Journal
Gillette News-Record
KRAL - Rawlins
KSIT - Rock Springs
KTWO TV - Casper
Northwest Colorado Daily News

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OTHER AGENCIES, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INDIVIDUALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Audubon Society
Wilderness Society
The Nature Conservancy
Field Museum of Natural History
Department of Geology
Montana Oil Journal
Murie Audubon Society
Petroleum Association of Wyoming
Sierra Club
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Stockgrowers Association
Wyoming Woolgrowers Association
Ivan Herold

National Wildlife Federation
Carbon County Stockgrowers
Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
The Nature Conservancy
Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Public Lands Council
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Vern Brodsho
Little Snake River Conservation District

5.2 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following tables identify the core BLM IDT (Table 5-1) and the consultant IDT (Table 5-2) that were principally involved with preparing this EA.

Table 5-1. List of BLM Interdisciplinary Reviewers.

Name	Responsibility
RAWLINS FIELD OFFICE	
Travis Bargsten	BLM IDT Lead
Krystal Clair	Visual Resources/Recreation
Pamela Huter	Cultural Resources
Lloyd Chism	Petroleum Engineer
Andy Warren	Vegetation/Range Issues
Mark Newman	Paleontology/Geology
Susan Foley	Soils/Pipeline construction/reclamation
Bob Lange	Hydrology/Water Quality
Frank Blomquist	Riparian/Wetland/Wildlife/T & E Issues
Janelle Wrigley	Realty Specialist
David Simons	Environmental Coordinator
Mike Jensen	Road Engineering
WYOMING STATE OFFICE	
Susan Caplan	Air Quality

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Table 5-2. List of Consultant Interdisciplinary Team EA Preparers.

Principal Interdisciplinary Team		
Name	Affiliation	Responsibility
Gary Holsan	Gary Holsan Environmental Planning	Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Project Manager
Mike Evers	Western Water Consultants	Water Resources
Larry Hayden-Wing	Hayden-Wing Associates	Wildlife/Fisheries, Special Status Animals and Fish, Range, Vegetation and Wetlands
George Blankenship	Planning Information Corporation	Socioeconomics, Transportation, Range, Other Land Use, Health and Safety, Noise
Jim Zapert, Susan Eater	TRC Environmental Corporation	Air Quality
Julie Hatcher	Pronghorn Archaeology	Cultural Resources
Gustav Winterfeld	Erathem-Vanir Geological Consultants	Geology/Paleontology, Mineral Resources, Soils
Charles Bucans	Star Valley Engineering	Editor, Coordinator